

Captain Mitchell L. Balutski
Honolulu Fire Department, RET

July 18, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working
Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write in support of LightSquared's efforts to launch a nationwide 4G-LTE broadband wireless network. This network offers a unique opportunity to increase the amount of spectrum available for wireless broadband, something that American consumers, businesses and as importantly, public safety personnel, desperately need.

LightSquared's nationwide 4G-LTE service will greatly increase access to wireless broadband for the 26 million Americans who lack it, particularly in rural areas that currently have little or no coverage. As a satellite communications provider to the public safety and homeland security community since the mid-1990s, the new next generation satellites integrated with 4G-LTE connectivity will enable an ability to provide seamless secure connectivity in remote areas. This, without doubt, will be of great benefit to first responders, healthcare workers and emergency response personnel. With increased access, emergency personnel will be much more efficient and many more lives will be saved.

Without question, the potential for interference with GPS devices is a serious issue that the FCC should address. However, LightSquared's proposal to launch operations only in the lower band of its licensed spectrum takes care of 99.95% of GPS receivers in use today and they have offered to help develop the technology to resolve interference issues for the remaining 0.05%. That said, given the United States' urgent need for expanded wireless broadband capacity, it seems that the next step is for the GPS industry to cooperate with LightSquared under the guidance of the Federal Communications Commission in make the necessary adjustments to its receivers to fix the remaining 0.05%.

Since LightSquared first received its authority to deploy a terrestrial network since 2003, the GPS community has had eight years to prepare for this day. The American people should not need to wait further – and certainly not with lives on the line – to accommodate the GPS industry's procrastination.

Sincerely,

Captain Mitchell L. Balutski

Retired, Honolulu Fire Department
51-023 Haumalani St.
Kaaawa, HI 96730